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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Lecreby certify that this paper, together with all enclosures identified herein, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

4-27-2004

Date

Anna M. Matthews

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.

10/068,540

Confirmation No.: 9899

Applicant

Jon H. Bechtel et al.

Filed

February 6, 2002

TC/A.U.

2878

Examiner

Que Tan Le

04/30/2004 STEUMEL1 00000073 10068540

Docket No.

GEN10 P-415

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Customer No.

028,469

Mail Stop Issue Fee Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(d), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached substitute form for Form 1449A/PTO. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a Notice of Allowance but before payment of the issue fee and is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00, as specified by §1.17(p) and a certification as specified under §1.97(e). Applicants respectfully petition and request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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Applicant

Jon H. Bechtel et al.

Appln. No.

10/068,540

Page

Certification: Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure

Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure

Statement.

Copies of the listed documents are submitted herewith along with the attached form.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The listed documents were cited in the PCT Search Report which issued from a corresponding PCT Patent Application. A copy of the PCT Search Report is included herewith.

The PCT Search Report is not a reference, and Applicants do not necessarily subscribe to any of the statements contained therein.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Applicant

Jon H. Bechtel et al.

Appln. No.

10/068,540

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 16-2463.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jon H. Bechtel et al.

Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton LLP

4-27-2004

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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

<u>Jon H. Bechtel</u> Art Unit 2878 **Examiner Name** Que Tan Le

(Use as many sheets as necessary) Attorney Docket Number Sheet **GEN10 P-415** 

				U. S. PATENT		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (if known)</sup>		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US- 4,140,142	Α	02/20/1979	Dormidontov et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 4,225,782	Α	09/30/1980	Kuppenheimer et al.	
		US- 5,172,206	Α	12/15/1992	Iizuka	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,114,688	Α	09/05/2000	Tanaka et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 6,320,182	B1	11/20/2001	Hubble, III et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document  Country Code 3-Number 4-Kind Code 5 (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Te				
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Examiner	Da	te	
Signature	l Co	nsidered	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.